

**MINUTES OF THE
HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**
Room 210 East Senate Building, State Capitol Complex
February 11, 2014

Members Present: Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Co-Chair
Rep. Keith Grover, Co-Chair
Rep. Jon E. Stanard, House Vice Chair
Sen. Aaron Osmond
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Sen. John L. Valentine
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Don I. Ipson
Rep. Dana L. Layton
Rep. Kay L. McIff
Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Rep. Robert M. Spendlove
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent: Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Dean Sanpei

Staff Present: Mr. Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Manager
Ms. Angela Oh, Economist/Statistician
Ms. Lorna Wells, Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Call to Order

House Vice Chair Stanard called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

2. USHE Institutional Requests

a. University of Utah (U of U) President David W. Pershing reported that the U of U supports the USHE budget requests for compensation, acute equity and capacity, distinctive mission, and performance based funding. He discussed his support for equity funding for the other USHE institutions. He discussed the need for the U of U's share of distinctive mission-based funding. With this additional funding, they would be able to enhance online education, expand course offerings, and increase certificate programs. They would like to offer more on-line professional master's programs. Another area that would be funded is student success and empowerment. He discussed the fact that they would like to focus on the six-year graduation goal rather than the current eight-year graduation trend. He discussed their "Plan to Finish" program. Pres. Pershing indicated that they would also increase research participation.

b. Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) Interim President Denece Huftalin echoed support for the USHE budget request for compensation for faculty and staff. She mentioned the

increases in health and dental insurance and retirement costs. She stated that the acute equity funding would be used for open access, enrollment increases, instruction, and infrastructure. They are planning to implement a new full-time faculty rank structure. They would increase the number of high-demand General Education courses, give support some new programs, and help with accreditation costs. She reported that at SLCC, completions do not necessarily mean graduates, there are a significant number of students who transfer successfully to four-year institutions or obtain skills required to advance in their career. They would use the funding to give more support for student services. Their student to advisor ratio is 1,222 to 1. The funding would be used to support student employment opportunities. Pres. Huftalin said that they will use the distinctive mission-based funding for the completion agenda and the student success initiatives, which involves K-12 partners.

Rep. Wheatley was concerned about the student to advisor ratio and especially asked about advisors for Hispanic students, and the advising ratio for these students. Pres. Huftalin replied that there are two advisors dedicated to the Hispanic student population, she didn't have the exact ratio. She reported that about 20 percent of the students at SLCC are from ethnic minorities. She will get Rep. Wheatley this information. Pres. Huftalin commented on the tremendous outreach effort for this population. They have hired bilingual advisors to help make the student's experience at SLCC a positive one.

Co-Chair Urquhart asked for clarification on student access, support and completion. Pres. Huftalin replied that if equity funding is appropriated, advising, high gateway courses, and infrastructure would be the first areas to receive that funding. Co-chair Urquhart asked about the high school outreach programs. Pres. Huftalin answered that they participate in the Utah Scholars program, many volunteers who go into eighth grade classes and talk about college readiness. They invite the K-12 principals come to the SLCC campuses. They have two federal grants to help recruit first-generation college students. Co-chair Urquhart encouraged committee members to examine the outreach to their own local high schools. They will be looking to prioritize a college-readiness initiative.

4. Advanced Foreign Language Concurrent Enrollment

Johanna Watsinger-Tharp from the College of Humanities at the U of U was representing a seven-institution consortium to request funding for the Utah dual language bridge project. They are requesting ongoing funding to create advanced foreign language at the upper division level. She explained that students who have been in dual-language immersion since 2008 will not have any classes available to them past the ninth grade. She reported that this started with five schools, but there are now 100 schools. They would like to provide a more seamless curriculum from elementary, to secondary, to post-secondary, and to the university.

Co-chair Urquhart asked what the costs would be to get this started and what would be the ongoing costs. Ms. Watsinger-Tharp answered that they are asking for \$500,000 for the first two years with additional funding in the third year. She indicated that the students will pay a fee, which will offset some of the instructional costs. Typically students will take one course each of their high school years for a maximum of nine upper division credits. Co-chair Urquhart stated that it will be very difficult to find ongoing money for this session. There might be some one-

time money, but felt the only way to afford this would be to place a higher fee on concurrent enrollment. He asked committee members for their thoughts on this.

Rep. Edwards asked what the cost for a concurrent enrollment course is right now. Co-Chair Urquhart replied that it is typically \$5 per credit hour, but it could be up to \$30. He mentioned that at college it could be up to \$200 per credit hour. Rep. Edwards asked if differentiated amounts are already charged. She felt that this cost shouldn't be a prohibitive burden, but allow students to take ownership for the tremendous benefit they are receiving. She would be interested into looking at this option. Rep. Layton stated that it is better to have the classes at a higher price rather than to not have them at all. It would still provide options for the students.

5. Requests for Appropriations

a. Utah State University Veterinary Program Rep. John G. Mathis introduced Dr. Ken White, USU Department of Agriculture. They are requesting \$1.5 million ongoing to complete the veterinary college program that was started three years ago. Rep. Mathis discussed the success of the program and the partnership with Washington State University.

b. Utah State University Cooperative Extension Rep. Lee B. Perry explained that the \$500,000 request deals with water resources which is part of the USU extension offices. The program would help with water use and conservation use initiatives. He distributed "Utah State University Extension Water Use and Conservation Initiative." He discussed the tremendous support for this program.

c. Utah State University Graduate School Rep. Jack R. Draxler introduced Neal Abercrombie, USU's Government Relations Director. Rep. Draxler said that last year the committee appropriated \$3.0 million, one time for USU graduate programs. He reported how the money was utilized and requested to have this funding become ongoing, and how important it is in order to attract high caliber students. Mr. Abercrombie gave examples of the success of three specific graduate students. He discussed the positive results of blending arts with STEM.

d. Snow College POST Rep. John Cox introduced San Pete County Sheriff Brian Nelson. The request is for planning money for a Peace Officer Standards and Training program at Snow College. He said that 459 employees at the Gunnison prison have this certification. After they are hired, the state pays for them to attend an academy. PRADA recommended expanding the Gunnison prison by 960 beds, which would mean a great need for additional POST-certified employees. It would be cost-effective to offer this program at Snow College.

e. UCAT Scholarships Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards reported that the \$100,000 appropriation request is to develop innovative opportunities for students with significant disabilities in career and technical education programs that would lead to employment. She stated that this money would help UCAT modify existing programs to meet the needs of these individuals. This is an extension of a very successful program implemented at the DATC. She explained that there is nothing in the system after an individual reaches the age of 22. UCAT has developed a partnership with the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council in this effort and will be extremely responsive to the needs of each individual student.

f. Poison Control Center Sen. Wayne A. Harper discussed the importance of the Poison Control Center housed at the U of U in the College of Pharmacy. He explained that there is a surcharge of seven cents on each monthly phone bill. He is requesting a direct allocation of \$2.1 million to fund this important program, instead of the surcharge.

Co-Chair Grover asked if this request is for \$2.1 million ongoing. Sen. Harper said this would be ongoing and that part of this issue is to build out the emergency 911 communication center throughout the state, which is short on funding. Co-Chair Urquhart mentioned that this seems more like a community function rather than a higher education function. He asked if higher education does not fund this, could the funding be shifted somewhere else. Sen. Harper replied that when the pharmacy college was being built \$2.5 million in the poison control fund was moved over to help build the facility.

Rep. Stanard asked if the funding request were approved if it would eliminate the seven cent fee on the phone bill. Sen. Harper replied that they would reallocate the seven cents to fund the shortfall for the enhanced 911 center. Sen. Harper also asked about the O & M request for higher education buildings.

6. UCAT Campus Requests

Vice Chair Stanard told the committee that he had asked Pres. Brems to report on how completion numbers are determined. Co-Chair Grover reminded committee members to answer some questions that he sent out regarding performance statute language to be used for USHE.

Pres. Rob Brems explained at length the accountability measures used by UCAT especially regarding completion rates, placement rates and licensure rates. He discussed how accreditation is determined from the Council on Occupational Education (COE) which specializes in technical training. He also told committee members that he would be happy to meet with them individually. He explained membership hours and how these are divided into certificate-seeking students, occupational-upgrade students, high school students, and other adults (life-long learning, basic skills, senior citizens, job re-entry).

Vice Chair Stanard indicated that intent language is coming that will request this data from each UCAT campus.

a. UCAT Administration Pres. Brems presented the budget request. He stated that the number one priority is for compensation, which would include a three percent performance-based compensation increase, health insurance increases, and retirement cost increases. The second request is for \$7.5 million in campus capacity which is needed to satisfy local demand. The third request is for \$7.5 million in equity funding which is divided into two criteria. The first criteria of \$3.75 million is based on the population in each UCAT region, and determining a per capita amount. The second criteria is based on taking the total population served in each UCAT region. He reminded committee members that this was reported at the October interim meeting.

Co-Chair Grover stated that it will probably not be possible to allocate the total \$15 million. He asked if it would be the UCAT's desire to assign any allocations on a percentage bases. Pres.

Brems answered a pro-rated amount would be preferred. Co-Chair Urquhart asked if any allocations should be divided equally between campus capacity and equity. Pres. Brems agreed. Co-Chair Urquhart praised Pres. Brems and the other campus presidents for their hard work and their collaboration.

Pres. Brems indicated that they have an additional request for \$1 million to enhance the custom fit program. They would like to target these funds to the manufacturing sector. Pres. Brems introduced Todd Bingham, President of the Utah Manufacturers Association. Mr. Bingham explained the critical need for their smaller manufacturing companies to raise the skill set of their employees. It is very difficult for these smaller companies to compete with the large companies for the available grants.

Pres. Brems requested \$100,000 for a UCAT scholarship fund for high school students who don't finish the program before they graduate, which is when the adult tuition rate applies. They are requesting \$250,000 to pay for the upgrade and maintenance of the Northstar student information system. They are requesting \$250,000 for a marketing message fund to help market the UCAT programs to high school students throughout the state. They are requesting O & M funding for three non-state funded buildings. They have two one-time funding requests, one for equipment upgrades and for the student information system.

b. Uintah Basin ATC Bob Peterson, Vice President of Student Services, thanked the committee members for their support. They are requesting funding for the following programs: instrumentation electronics, culinary arts, pipe welding, petroleum technology certificate, well-control certificate, and transportation certificate. He discussed their share of the equity funding would be used for campus marketing, a career center, and employee retention.

c. Tooele ATC President Scott Snelson reported that they are requesting funding for the following programs: construction technology, licensed practical nursing, professional truck driving, business technology, certified nurse assistant, diesel technology, industrial maintenance and information technology. They have four empty spaces that they would like to occupy with the nursing programs, construction technology, a CDL classroom, and the learning center. Their piece of the equity funding would be used for a learning center, infrastructure, instructional support, advisor, evening security, and community outreach and development.

d. Ogden/Weber ATC President Collette Mercier discussed the process they use for prioritizing programs started at the college. They look to see if there is student demand, employer demand, decent wages, and opportunities for partnerships and pathways. They have identified the automotive service technician program as their first priority. DWS has identified this as a four-star occupation. They have partnered with the secondary system and Weber State University and should have the program ready by September.

e. Mountainland ATC President Clay Christensen introduced Kirt Michaelis, Chief Financial Officer. He discussed the extensive process for determining their budget needs. Their three main capacity requests are: CNC and machining program, information technology, and welding technology. Their campus equity request would be used to expand programs and offerings, and their information technology. They are requesting O & M funding for their non-

state funded facilities.

f. Dixie ATC President Kelle Stephens is requesting funding to acquire a new space to house their diesel program, their CNC program, and their automotive technician program. Their Board of Directors has approved leasing the Legacy building. She discussed other requests for program expansion and infrastructure.

g. Davis ATC President Michael Bouwhuis stated that board members, employers, DWS, and faculty are all involved in the process of the creating programs. He reported budget requests for the following programs: injection molding, automation and robotic technology, industrial automation; practical nursing; composite materials technology; dental assisting, allied health; information engineering and data management; electronic health information technology; emergency medical responder; and project management. The equity piece would be used for faculty retention, enhance faculty training, distance learning development, and counselors. They are requesting O & M for the Simmons building.

Sen. Stephenson asked if the UCAT campuses could give information regarding high demand needs that were not shown today. Pres. Bouwhuis said that the diesel program at DATC is in high demand and that each campus does have these demands. Sen. Stephenson would like the Legislature to be more nimble to respond more quickly to these high demands. The UCAT campuses should not have to wait for another year to find the funding. Rep. Ipson agreed that the system must be proactive in meeting the needs of industry and employers.

h. Bridgerland ATC President Maughn introduced Jeff Campbell, Vice President for business. Pres. Maughan reported that their capacity expansion requests are for: automated manufacturing, information technology, health occupations and culinary arts. Their equity request would be used for academic learning and student assessment, animal science and veterinary assistant program, college recruiting and enrollment counselors. He explained that these come from their 400-member advisory committee. He discussed the wage data by industry for allied health, business, construction manufacturing, and service professions.

Vice Chair Stanard reminded committee members that the funding prioritization would be completed at the next meeting, and asked them to be on time.

MOTION: Co-Chair Grover moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Stanard adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Co-Chair

Rep. Keith Grover, Co-Chair